United Nations S/2018/215

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 9 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letters that I had sent to the Security Council previously, the most recent of which was my letter of 14 February 2018 (S/2018/153), regarding the occupation of the Sudanese Hala'ib triangle by Egypt, I regret that I must inform you yet again that the Egyptian authorities are continuing their efforts, programmes, plans and measures to Egyptianize the Sudanese Hala'ib triangle, perpetuate their occupation and impose a fait accompli, in clear and flagrant violation of the relevant international instruments, including those concerning general international law and those concerning, in particular, international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In that connection, I should like to note that the Government of Egypt oversaw the signing of a protocol on cooperation between the General Authority for Red Sea Ports and the National Organization for Military Production in relation to the construction of fishing ports in Shalatin and Abu Ramad. The occupying authorities also launched the second phase of the project to expand the Red Sea desalination plant in Hala'ib and Abu Ramad. Moreover, the Egyptian Government has, for the first time, designated the Hala'ib region as an electoral district, and the Egyptian presidential election will be contested there at the end of the current month.

The above-mentioned measures fly in the face of the fundamental principles that underpin the Charter of the United Nations. Among those principles is the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means, including arbitration, something for which the Government of the Sudan has called should the Egyptian Government fail to end its occupation of the triangle. As we have stated before, we are calling for such measures to be taken by two States that have many ties.

International law, in general, and international humanitarian law, in particular, impose obligations on occupying States. The above-mentioned measures are not in line with the spirit that prevailed at the four high-level meetings that were convened by the two counties this past February. At those meetings, it was decided that all inflammatory measures would be halted in the Hala'ib triangle and that talks would be held on finalizing the framework for a solution to the crisis. I transmit to you herewith a non-exhaustive listing of violations committed by the Government of Egypt as it strives to Egyptianize the Hala'ib area and impose a fait accompli (see annex).

I should like to inform you once again that the Government of the Sudan rejects and does not recognize these measures and practices. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Magdi Ahmed Mofadal **Elnour**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Measures taken by the Egyptian Government to Egyptianize the Sudanese Hala'ib triangle (Hala'ib, Shalatin and Abu Ramad) and perpetuate its occupation thereof

1. On Tuesday, 27 February 2018, the Egyptian Minister of Transportation, Hisham Arafat, and the Egyptian Minister of Military Production, General Muhammad al-Assar, witnessed the signing of a protocol on cooperation between the General Authority for Red Sea Ports and the National Organization for Military Production in relation to the construction of fishing ports in Shalatin and Abu Ramad. The protocol was signed by the Chair of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Red Sea Ports, General Hisham Abu Sanah, and the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Military Production, General Hasan Abdulmajid.

2. The Egyptian Minister of Transportation said that the aim of the protocol was to catalyse cooperation between the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Military Production, with a view to utilizing the ministries' expertise to develop ports on the Red Sea. To that end, the National Organization for Military Production will build two ice factories, each with a capacity of 20 tons per day; two desalination plants, one at Shalatin port and the other at Abu Ramad port, each with a capacity of 200 m^3 per day; two waste treatment plants; petrol stations; and electrical generators. It would also furnish the required equipment and generators, and carry out any electromechanical work needed at the fishing ports in Shalatin and Abu Ramad. The project is valued at 30 million Egyptian pounds.

3. The Egyptian Minister of Transportation also said that the project would be executed in accordance with international quality standards, and that it would make use of the expertise of the Ministry of Military Production to install fire suppression and alarm systems in accordance with the conditions, specifications and tender requirements established by the Fisheries Authority, Red Sea governorate, the General Authority for Red Sea Ports and project consultants. The fishing port at Abu Ramad will cover an area of 70,000 m^2 and cost approximately 120 million Egyptian pounds to build.

4. The Egyptian Minister of Transportation added that the fishing port at Abu Ramad is expected to serve 1,450 ships. The fishing port at Shalatin will cover an area of 150,000 m^2 and cost approximately 150 million Egyptian pounds to build. It is expected that the latter port will serve 1,780 ships. The ports will include piers for various fishing units, logistical services facilities, administration buildings, facilities and infrastructure. In addition, the scope of the projects includes the construction of yards, refrigerated storage facilities, shipping cranes, canopies, waiting areas, a petrol station, an ice factory and facilities for sorting and packing fish.

5. On Thursday, 1 March 2018, the Egyptian Minister of Housing and Facilities, Mustafa Madbuli, said that the Central Construction Agency, acting through its subsidiary, the Red Sea Construction Agency, had begun the second phase of the expansion of the desalination plants at Hala'ib and Abu Ramad, with a view to increasing the capacity of each by approximately 3,000 m^3 per day. According to the Egyptian minister, the expansion would be completed by September 2019, so as to meet the needs of development projects that have been planned for the area.

6. The occupying Power continues to plunder the mineral and marine resources of the area.

7. The Egyptian Government has, for the first time, designated the Hala'ib region as an electoral district, and the Egyptian presidential election will be contested there at the end of the current month. On Tuesday, 27 February 2018, the Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, Sulayman Wahdan, addressed a rally in Shalatin that had been organized to support President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi. The Deputy Speaker called upon the crowd to recite what he called an oath of loyalty, which was as follows: I swear by God Almighty to preserve the country, protect its borders and stand with President Al Sisi in building the country.